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A Note on Recognition

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A NOTE ON RECOGNITION

In the early 1980s, *The Christian Science Monitor* ran an annual feature on small press publishing and, in the last of that series (12 August 1983), named *The Iowa Review* one of the five best small magazines reviewed.

In October, 1985, *Scholarly Publishing* (Toronto) ran an extended survey on poetry in the academic presses. With 145 poets responding, *The Iowa Review* ranked third among university-sponsored magazines and seventh among all North American magazines in English for publishing “the best, or most significant poetry.”

Library Journal, more recently (15 February 1987), examined just where American literature is first being published. Leonard Kniffel of the Detroit Public Library analyzed up to ten years worth of award-winning books and anthologies of prize-winning stories. In his overall tabulation, *The Iowa Review* ranked sixth among magazines whose work went on to win further distinction. Four hundred twenty-six magazines fit into that landscape of publication, with *Antaeus* and *Poetry* the only small magazines to rank ahead of us.

Another review, more idiosyncratic but just as pleasing, came out in *Literary Magazine Review* (Spring, 1986). A survey of “over a hundred writers and editors,” determining which magazines were the most prominent and so worthy of review, placed *The Iowa Review* in the first of two groups of sixteen. The review itself, by Leon Driskell, University of Louisville, was a detailed discussion of a single issue (15/1). Driskell singled out several items for extended discussion and gave us generous credit, more than we were aware of deserving, for placing material so that individual writings, in apt juxtaposition, made “even larger, fuller statements.”

We are not riveted on winning accolades. Looking back over nearly nine years of directing our choices, I can number several favorites that remain essentially secret, for we look to ourselves first to decide what is so artful, spirited, and singular as to compel our commitment.

Still, we don't mind discovering this pattern of good opinion.

D. H.